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Michael Katz

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2117 Rose Street, #9
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FCC Mail Room

January 21, 2014

Federal Communications Commission

Attn.: Comments

Re: Proceeding 13-301, Expanding Access to Mobile Services Onboard
445 12th St. SW.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

I strongly urge the FCC *not* to authorize airlines to allow in-flight mobile-phone calls. The FCC should maintain its prohibition of all in-flight mobile voice services – including workarounds like Skype, Google Voice, FaceTime, or conferencing apps.

For years, air travel has become steadily more onerous. Skyrocketing fares and fees, fuel surcharges, shrinking legroom, disappearing meals, and excruciating security rituals have all worsened the experience of travelers like me.

I would consider it an intolerable last straw to be subjected to fellow passengers' mobile-phone chatter – or even to shrill ring tones – in a confined space with no escape.

There are obvious, very good reasons why flight attendants' unions have consistently and strenuously opposed adding this annoyance to already-tense cabins. Allowing in-flight voice calls would be so disruptive as to raise clear and present security concerns.

There is no conceivable offsetting benefit. Especially given the FAA's recent authorization for silent in-flight communications, like texting and e-mail, there is simply no one so important that they cannot bear to be without voice contact for a few hours. (And if anyone *is* so important, he is probably flying on private planes and not subject to these common-carrier rules.)

I know that some Middle Eastern carriers currently permit in-flight voice calls. This should have no bearing on FCC policy. Different cultures have different standards of public behavior and tolerance.

As an American, I expect at least 80% of fellow passengers to abuse mobile phones loudly, rudely, and selfishly -- just as they abuse overhead bins and boarding lines. I also believe I am 100% entitled to be spared this added annoyance.

Thank you for accepting this plea to maintain FCC prohibition of all in-flight mobile voice services.

Respectfully yours,



Michael Katz